

(Mr. OTTER) because we are affected by this bill, and the aquifer which traverses both States affects our respective districts. So we are proud to introduce this bill which calls for a study, as the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) mentioned, to analyze this aquifer, to understand what is there so we can make sure we protect it and wisely manage it. One of the great challenges for us in the Pacific Northwest is to make sure that our abundant resources, our natural resources, our mountains, our streams, our rivers, our lakes, our entire environment is well managed by Federal agencies and by private resources.

So in the case of the aquifer we have a situation where there are some economic interests that want to use it. They want to use it as a resource to provide industrial benefit to eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

But before they do so, we have to be sure that it is protected. What this bill does is to take a hard look at doing a model and a study to make sure we know what is there so that it can be protected.

There is also a disparity in consideration of aquifer use, of economic development, on either side of the border. Spokane, Washington, is my hometown, the major city in my district, the largest population center. It is about 32 miles from the Idaho border. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, rests on the other side of the border in Idaho that is represented by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER), and the States of Idaho and Washington have very different consideration times for permitting, for permitting for economic benefit and use.

In Idaho, if we want to get a permit, it can take months; in Washington, it can take years. So we think that in doing this study and having the Committee on Resources in Congress adopt this position in a study, we can make sure that there is some continuity of interest in analysis and development that would rest on each side of the border, so that the legislatures of each side, each State, each respective State, would have a chance to look at this issue and understand what is there, and then make policy decisions that are coordinated rather than disparate.

So I can say to the House that there is unanimity on the part of our chambers of commerce that this is a wise approach. There are five chambers of commerce that are in Idaho and Washington State that are affected by this issue, and they are of the opinion and their memberships are of the opinion that this is a wise thing to do; that is, make sure we know what is in the aquifer, what its considerations and characteristics are, so that we can make sure we manage it wisely.

I especially want to thank the Committee on Resources. The gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and his subcommittee presented this bill in very fast consideration, very fair consideration. The entire Committee on

Resources passed it out. I especially am grateful to that Committee on Resources that took into account this very important measure that affects a large area in eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

I will restate again that the environmental protections that we seek from this bill are sensible, they are reasonable, and they are timely. It is estimated that there are millions of gallons that go through this aquifer and would be presented by it, but we have to be sure that we know what is there, and we have to be sure that what is there is wisely managed so that we protect this wonderful resource that we have in the Pacific Northwest, a clean environment, a great place to live and work, a great place to have economic development, at the same time we protect our environmental resources.

So I will thank the gentleman from Nebraska and his counterpart, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU), for his courtesy in allowing me to say a few words in support of my bill. I speak on behalf of the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) in thanking the committee and subcommittee of jurisdiction for considering this measure, and we hope it will pass overwhelmingly.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4609 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of groundwater resources in certain areas of Washington and Idaho. In the Pacific Northwest, our water resources are precious resources, and we expect the results of the study to provide the States with reliable information they can use to better manage the groundwater resource which is shared between the States.

I commend my colleagues, the gentlemen from Idaho and Washington, for bringing this legislation to the floor, and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4609.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4609.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ISSUING PERMITS FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3380) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3380

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMITS FOR EXISTING NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines that exist as of September 1, 2001, within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) issued consistent with laws and regulations generally applicable to utility rights-of-way within units of the National Park System; and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary deems necessary.

SEC. 2. PERMITS FOR PROPOSED NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park that are proposed to be constructed across the following:

(1) The Foothills Parkway.

(2) The Foothills Parkway Spur between Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

(3) The Gatlinburg Bypass.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) issued consistent with laws and regulations generally applicable to utility rights-of-way within units of the National Park System; and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary deems necessary, including—

(A) provisions for the protection and restoration of park resources that are disturbed by pipeline construction; and

(B) assurances that construction and operation of the pipeline will not adversely affect Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3380 was introduced by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for a natural gas pipeline to tie in an existing pipeline within the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

In 2000, the Sevier County Utility District in rural east Tennessee made the request of the National Park Service to grant authority to tie in a natural gas pipeline to an already existing underground natural gas pipeline along U.S. Highway 441 in the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge spur. The existing pipeline

was installed prior to the Park Service's acquisition of the right-of-way along the highway.

After preparing to grant the request, it was discovered that while the Secretary possesses the authority to grant right-of-way permits through the units of the park system for various utility services, the Secretary did not possess the authority to grant a permit for natural gas and petroleum product pipelines.

The pipeline would service homes in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. At the present time, these homes are reliant upon propane and electricity to meet their energy needs. Given some air quality issues at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Park Service believes it is in the best interests of the park to permit natural gas pipelines as a clean alternative for new homes and businesses.

No permits will be granted until all environmental and safety reviews have been conducted. This authority would be consistent with the authority granted at the Blue Ridge and Natchez Trace Parkway park units.

This is a noncontroversial bill supported by both the majority and the minority, as well as the administration, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the subcommittee and the committee in their favorable consideration of this bill, and in recommending it for passage.

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) has explained the provisions of this bill very well, and he pointed out that in planning this project, that it was discovered that the Secretary of the Interior had power to issue permits for other utilities, but not for natural gas, and that power has been given to the Secretary of the Interior on a case-by-case basis in the case of other national parks across this land.

All of these lines will be laid underground. The lines will be all under a road, and there will be no diminution in the natural beauty of this great national park.

As we know, this is the most visited national park in the country. There is substantial growth on all sides of this national park, in all of the border areas. The passage of this legislation will allow that growth to be clean growth. The Senate has passed this legislation, and we will appreciate the favorable consideration in the House of Representatives.

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Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3380 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for an existing natural gas pipeline as well as future natural gas pipelines that would cross or parallel three road segments that lead into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

We must be very careful in approving such activities. When the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 3380 earlier this year, the National Park Service testified in support of the legislation, noting that the pipelines would cross or parallel only park roads and not involve other park resources. The National Park Service also assured the committee that all necessary steps would be taken to ensure that these pipelines have no negative impact on park resources or visitor use.

Given those assurances and relying upon them, we have no objection to consideration of H.R. 3380 by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3380.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT CLATSOP NATIONAL MEMORIAL EXPANSION ACT OF 2002

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2643) to authorize the acquisition of additional lands for inclusion in the Fort Clatsop National Memorial in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2643

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fort Clatsop National Memorial Expansion Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Fort Clatsop National Memorial is the only unit of the National Park System solely dedicated to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

(2) In 1805, the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition built Fort Clatsop at the mouth of the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon, and they spent 106 days at the fort waiting for the end of winter and preparing for their journey home.

(3) In 1958, Congress enacted Public Law 85-435 authorizing the establishment of Fort Clatsop National Memorial for the purpose of commemorating the culmination, and the winter encampment, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition following its successful crossing of the North American continent.

(4) The 1995 General Management Plan for Fort Clatsop National Memorial, prepared with input from the local community, recommends the expansion of the memorial to include the trail used by expedition members to access the Pacific Ocean from the fort and the shore and forest lands surrounding the fort and trail to protect their natural settings.

(5) Expansion of Fort Clatsop National Memorial requires Federal legislation because the size of the memorial is currently limited by statute to 130 acres.

(6) Congressional action to allow for the expansion of Fort Clatsop National Memorial to include the trail to the Pacific Ocean would be timely and appropriate before the start of the bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition planned to take place during the years 2004 through 2006.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF FORT CLATSOP NATIONAL MEMORIAL, OREGON.

(a) REVISED BOUNDARIES.—Section 2 of Public Law 85-435 (16 U.S.C. 450mm-1) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a) INITIAL DESIGNATION OF LANDS.—" before "The Secretary";

(2) by striking "coast:" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting "coast."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(b) AUTHORIZED EXPANSION.—The Fort Clatsop National Memorial shall also include the lands depicted on the map entitled 'Fort Clatsop Boundary Map', numbered '405-80026C-CCO', and dated June 1996.

"(c) MAXIMUM DESIGNATED AREA.—The total area designated as the Fort Clatsop National Memorial shall not exceed 1,500 acres."

(b) AUTHORIZED ACQUISITION METHODS.—Section 3 of Public Law 85-435 (16 U.S.C. 450mm-2) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a) ACQUISITION METHODS.—" before "Within"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) LIMITATION.—The lands (other than corporately owned timberlands) depicted on the map referred to in section 2(b) may be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior only by donation or purchase from willing sellers."

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Section 4 of Public Law 85-435 (16 U.S.C. 450mm-3) is amended—

(1) by striking "Establishment" and all that follows through "its establishment," and inserting "(a) ADMINISTRATION.—"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—If the owner of corporately owned timberlands depicted on the map referred to in section 2(b) agrees to enter into a sale of such lands as a result of actual condemnation proceedings or in lieu of condemnation proceedings, the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the owner regarding the manner in which such lands will be managed after acquisition by the United States."

SEC. 4. STUDY OF STATION CAMP SITE AND OTHER AREAS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a study of the area near McGowan, Washington, where the Lewis and Clark Expedition first camped after reaching the Pacific Ocean and known as the "Station Camp" site, as well as the Megler Rest Area and Fort Canby State Park, to determine the suitability, feasibility, and national significance of these sites for inclusion in the National Park System. The study shall be conducted in accordance with section 8 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) each will control 20 minutes.